



# The New School FREE PRESS



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## LOEB EVICTS STUDENTS

### Halloween 'joke' backfires

By JULIA DAVIDSON & KEVIN DUGAN

On October 25, Lang freshmen Maxwell Wolkin and Nicholas Engel posted a picture of the burning Twin Towers on their door in Loeb Hall. Above the poster, they put up a "Happy Halloween" sign. This was their entry in the door-decorating contest sponsored by the Loeb Hall Council, which called for residents to create the "most scariest door" in the dorm.

By Friday afternoon, the poster was gone. "Someone tore that down and left a note up on our door calling us douchebags," said Wolkin.

In response, the two roommates put up two more pictures: one Nazi propaganda poster, and an anti-Semitic flyer depicting a hideous man with a Star of David on his forehead. Alongside the posters was a note defending their freedom of expression and calling the person who had removed the 9/11 photo "an asshole and a coward" who should "get a sense of humor." Both of the students are Jewish.

Since then, the posters have been taken down, and both roommates were evicted on November 7 for disorderly and harassing conduct.

While the students claim that the university is suspending their First Amendment rights, school officials have censured them for creating a hostile environment. The aftermath has revealed a complex question on the boundaries of a student's freedom of speech and the school's responsibility to create a safe space for its pupils.

Administration officials declined to discuss the case because it is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a matter of policy, the university does not disclose specific information about any student's disciplinary records.

"In my six years at the University, I do not recall a similar incident which could be cited as precedent for reviewing this," said Roger Ward, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs. "The University, however, is committed to a careful and thorough review of the incident to ensure that our educational values and principles are respected and upheld."

Wolkin said that the 9/11 poster was intended as an "offensive

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SAM LEWIS

## Lang Students at the New York City Marathon

Last Sunday, students of the Lang Marathon class lined up on 1st Avenue and 60th Street in orange ponchos to hand out water, quenching the runners' thirst. See pages 8 & 9 for more

## Vintage Village in Decline

### Residents blame New School, NYU

By DARYA MARCHENKOVA

In the gymnasium of a local school last week, worried Greenwich Village community members met to discuss how their old neighborhood is quickly being replaced. But with almost 200 seats

members concerned that their neighborhoods are losing character, disappearing altogether. Two of the principle nuisances are the expanding campuses of New York University and The New School,

speaker. Berman had just finished a meeting with Bob Kerrey about the new 65 5th Ave. building.

NYU has expanded dramatically over the past several decades, Berman said, adding, "I don't think I



SAM LEWIS

A problem for some, East Village graffiti exemplifies local charm for others.

set up for the event, fewer than 25 people occupied them.

Rents have sky-rocketed in this neighborhood over the past decade, forcing long-time residents to move out, and rapid development has community

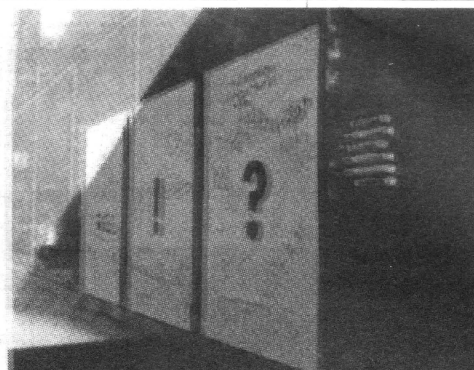
residents say.

"There is no bigger opponent in the neighborhood than NYU," said Andrew Berman, executive director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHSP) and the evening's guest

need to tell anyone here that." The room murmured with laughter.

"It's very exciting for this neighborhood to be so dynamic, but how is it going to affect the qual-

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Installation outside 65 5th Ave. JULIA DAVIDSON

## Go Ahead, Tag Me

By JULIA DAVIDSON

On Monday, October 29, punctuation marks graced the outside of the GF building. There were three white foam boards on the wall that faces Fifth Avenue: one with a period, one with a question mark and one with an exclamation point. Five dry erase markers were available beside the boards. There was no explanation visible of either the boards or the markers. Throughout the day, New School students and other passersby wrote on the punctuation boards with the markers provided.

Parsons graduate students Mike

Lee and Dan Provost created the installation for their class, Major Studio: Interface. The assignment was to change the interaction of users in some way, tying in with ethnography lessons from the course, they said. Lee and Provost intended to increase interaction between strangers, especially smokers and non-smokers, since the front of the GF is a place where many smokers congregate.

They then observed what and how people wrote on the boards.

By the end of the day, the boards were decorated with many doodles and scribbles. Only one marker was stolen. Lee felt that the content was "a mixture of positive and negative." They observed that users tended to write in groups. "We came to the conclusion that users felt more comfortable writing on the boards if they saw other people writing on them," said Lee. Some examples of drawings on the boards are an elephant and a stylized ejaculating penis.

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